

## CHAPTER I

### ANNEXATION - A HISTORY OF PAST GROWTH

An old camping site is said to be the origin of the City of Salisbury. This camping site was located alongside the old Indian trading path which extended from the Warren County Line in the northeast, through Oxford, Mebane, Graham, Asheboro, and Salisbury to Charlotte. Old records indicate that as Salisbury grew, this Indian trading path became its Main Street.

The old camping site was part of a 350 acre tract of land purchased by its owner, James Carter, on March 8, 1753 -- two weeks prior to the establishing of Rowan County. The actual deed of Salisbury, it is said, dates back to February 11, 1755. At that time a 635 acre tract of land, situated to the north and west of James Carter's tract, was added to the original 350 acres.

In 1770 the newly incorporated City of Salisbury consisted of about one and one half square miles. Today, after almost one hundred and ninety-one years, the city's land area has increased to approximately six square miles.

Salisbury's first official annexation occurred around 1876. No accurate boundary description of this annexation exists, but records show that the city's population, at that time, had reached 2,733.

There are no records of any annexations from 1877 until 1955 when Salisbury's largest annexation took place. Over 2,000 acres of land were added to the city limits. This added twice as much land to the city or over 3 square miles.

Between 1915 and 1950 -- a period of thirty-five years -- Salisbury had only one annexation of 164 acres in 1927. In contrast the city's population increased from 13,884 in 1920 to 20,102 in 1950. This population increase must have located within the large amount of land annexed in 1915.

From 1950 to 1960 nine annexations have been made adding approximately one square mile to the city. Six of the annexations have been of areas less than 20 acres and the other three annexations were of 386 acres in 1953, 79 acres in 1954 and 59 acres in 1955. In 1960 there were six square miles within the city limits or nearly 4,000 acres.

This history of growth and annexation in Salisbury indicates how sporadic the extension of the city limits has been prior to the 1950 decade. In recent years annexation has become a recognized function of modern city government in Salisbury.